

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases ~~which has a structure in which~~ , comprising:

a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members ~~[[are]]~~ combined with one another ~~through~~ by a sealing material layer to constitute a ceramic block, each ~~of the above-mentioned~~ rectangular columnar porous ceramic member comprising a ~~number~~ plurality of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in ~~the~~ a length direction with a partition wall interposed therebetween;

a circumferential sealing material layer ~~is also~~ formed on a circumference portion of said ceramic block, wherein; ~~and~~

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates, and

~~wherein~~, on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of said porous ceramic member of said ceramic block, ~~[[the]]~~ a maximum width L (mm) of the crisscross portion of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than ~~[[the]]~~ a minimum width l (mm) of said sealing material layer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1,

wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an outer circumferential face in the length direction has a curved face.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1,

wherein on a cross section perpendicular to the length direction of the porous ceramic member of the ceramic block, for each of a plurality of said crisscross portions, the maximum width L (mm) of the crisscross portion of said sealing material layer is 1.5 to 3 times greater than the minimum width l (mm) of said sealing material layer, ~~with respect to the crisscross portions of all the sealing material layer.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising

~~wherein~~ a catalyst supporting film ~~[[is]]~~ applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising

~~wherein~~ a catalyst ~~[[is]]~~ applied to the porous ceramic member.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising

~~wherein~~ a catalyst supporting film ~~[[is]]~~ applied to the sealing material layer.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, further comprising

~~wherein~~ a catalyst ~~[[is]]~~ applied to the sealing material layer.